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*LIMITED TO MATTERS AND PROCEEDINGS BEFORE
FEDERAL COURTS & AGENCIES
REGISTERED PATENT AGENT ***SENIOR COUNSEL

January 2, 2002

WRITER'S DIRECT NUMBER: (202) 371-2587 INTERNET ADDRESS: PGARRETT@SKGF.COM

Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Re:

U.S. Utility Patent Application

Appl. No. 09/909,896; Filed: July 23, 2001

Methods and Systems for Digitally Processing Optical Data Signals

Agazzi et al. Inventors:

Our Ref: -1875.1100001

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

- Information Disclosure Statement (in duplicate); 1.
- Ten (10) sheets of Form PTO-1449, listing thirty-one (31) reference documents; 2.
- One (1) copy each of referenced documents AA1-AB1, AR1-AT1, AR2-AT2, 3. AR3-AT3, AR4-AT4, AR5-AT5, AR6-AT6, AR7-AT7, AR8-AT8, AR9-AT9, and AR10-AS10; and
- One (1) return postcard. 4.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are

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STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Commissioner for Patents January 2, 2002 Page 2

necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Patrick E. Garrett

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 39,987

PEG:mlb Enclosures

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



In re application of:

Agazzi et al.

Appl. No. 09/909,896

Washington, D.C. 20231

Filed: July 23, 2001

For:

Methods and Systems for Digitally

Processing Optical Data Signals

Confirmation No. 9207

Art Unit: 2662

Examiner: (to be assigned)

Atty. Docket: 1875.1100001

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents

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Technology Center 2600

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO-1449 are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Where the publication date of a listed document does not provide a month of publication, the year of publication of the listed document is sufficiently earlier than the effective U.S. filing date and any foreign priority date so that the month of publication is not in issue. Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO-1449 based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- 1. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- □ 2. This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - □ a. I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information

 Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from
 a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not
 more than three months prior to the filing of this Information

 Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - □ b. I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure

 Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent
 office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge
 after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual
 designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to

	the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
	□ c. Attached is our Check No in the amount of \$ in
	payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
□ 3.	This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months
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	our Check No in the amount of \$ in payment of the fee
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	designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to
	the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R.
	§ 1.97(e)(2).
□ 4.	The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in
	a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language
	version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found
	by the foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a
	concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.
□ 5.	A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s)
	appears below:
□ 6.	Copies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that
	complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No,
	filed, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35

U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO-1449, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this pleading is enclosed.0

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Patrick E. Garrett

Attorney for Applicants Registration No. 39,987

Date: 1-2-02

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	AT	3	Winters, Ja Systems," I	ck H., et al., "! EEE, IEEE Commun	Reducing the Effects o ications Magazine, Jun	of Transmission ne 1993, pp. 68	Impairm -76.	ments in Digi	tal Fiber Opti
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